

4. As regards allegations contained in the report, most of them are baseless, frivolous and general in nature. It would appear that the organisation has little or scanty knowledge of the Indian Legal System. To counter a few, that India has about 18 million children working on streets, is a highly exaggerated statement. The figures of 18 million quoted in the report actually correspond to the number of children in the age group of 16-18 years, living below the poverty line. To assume that all of them would fall in the category of street children, would not be justified at all. The observation that street children are detained, beaten and tortured is a very general and sweeping statement. Invariably, whenever such crimes are reported, and *prima facie* charges are established, case is investigated and delinquent officials are prosecuted in accordance with law.

5. A consolidated response to this report was sent to Ministry of External Affairs for briefing Missions abroad in order to neutralise the effects of this report.

Pension for Freedom Fighters

4806. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken to ensure proper utilization of pension for the freedom fighters;

(b) whether the fraudulent cases of claiming pension for freedom fighters have come to the notice of the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) The Central Government sanctions freedom fighters pension in a case on the basis of the information/documents produced by the applicant and the recommendation made by the State Governments. It is made clear in the sanction letter that pension is subject to review and can be cancelled/modified, without any further notice, if it is established that the same was obtained on mistaken grounds or false information. Complaints received are enquired into through the concerned State Governments and their agencies, as also through the Central investigating agencies, wherever considered necessary. So far pension has been suspended in 2886 cases and cancelled in 1316 cases. A statement indicating the position, State-wise, is enclosed.

Scrutiny of claims for pension has been made more stringent with a view to ensuring that no person, who is not entitled to pension, is sanctioned pension.

Freedom fighters can draw pension only against a sanction order and pension payment order issued by the Central Government. The pension disbursing authorities

possess identification documents of pensioners, such as passport size photographs, specimen signatures, fingerprints, etc. for identification so as to ensure that pension is received by genuine pensioners only.

Statement

The cases where freedom fighter pension has been suspended or cancelled.

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Number of cases	
		Suspended	Cancelled
1.	Andhra Pradesh	101	4
2.	Bihar	624	180
3.	Goa	9	9
4.	Haryana	15	22
5.	Himachal Pradesh	0	2
6.	Karnataka	570	261
7.	Kerala	720	61
8.	Madhya Pradesh	55	61
9.	Maharashtra	227	36
10.	Meghalaya	7	13
11.	Orissa	12	85
12.	Punjab	101	26
13.	Tamil Nadu	15	81
14.	Uttar Pradesh	228	222
15.	West Bengal	191	214
16.	Delhi	2	26
17.	Pondicherry	9	13
Total		2886	1316

[Translation]

Memorial in Memory of Freedom Fighters

4807. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to set up a memorial in the historical military camps of the freedom fighters of Azad Hind Fauj in Myanmar (Burma);